

Labor Force Data: State, SMSAs, and Counties

Area or County	March, 1984 Prelim.			Area or County	March, 1984 Prelim.		
	Labor ^{1/} Force	Unemp.	Un. Rate		Labor ^{1/} Force	Unemp.	Un. Rate
State of Minnesota	2161604	152283	7.1	Lake	4135	790	19.3
Metropolitan Areas				Lake of the Woods	1817	190	10.5
Duluth/Superior (Duluth City Only)	35062	3816	10.9	Le Sueur	11001	1297	11.8
Fargo/Moorhead (Fargo County, MN Only)	28166	2018	7.2	Lincoln	3715	338	9.1
Minneapolis/St. Paul SMSA ^{2/}	1195203	86531	5.1	Lyon	14791	1003	6.8
Rochester SMSA (Olmeda Co.)	58787	2816	4.8	McLeod	16212	1281	7.9
St. Cloud SMSA ^{3/}	78829	8949	8.8	Mannomen	2891	392	13.6
Counties				Marshall	6194	1094	17.7
Aitkin	5398	1176	21.8	Martine	13383	882	6.6
Anoka	41704	8297	5.5	Meeker	10501	1375	13.1
Becker	12599	7320	18.5	Miller Lacs	8500	899	10.6
Benton	16082	1537	9.6	Morrison	12541	1577	12.6
Benton	12186	1096	5.8	Mower	17943	1371	7.6
Big Stone	3767	328	8.7	Murray	5970	619	10.4
Blue Earth	28350	1550	5.6	Nicollet	14634	859	5.9
Brown	14681	1112	7.6	Norman	11762	657	7.1
Carlton	11750	1469	12.5	Norman	4502	430	9.7
Carver	21647	1341	6.2	Olmeda	58787	2835	4.8
Cass	9556	1283	13.4	Otter Tail	24729	3350	13.5
Chippewa	7400	576	9.1	Pennington	6290	645	10.3
Chisago	15123	1430	9.2	Pine	9665	1389	14.4
Clay	28166	2018	7.2	Pipestone	5514	331	6.0
Clearwater	4191	1048	25.0	Polk	17311	1700	9.8
Cook	2167	330	15.1	Pope	5202	501	9.6
Cottonwood	1205	467	6.8	Ramsey	264818	12856	4.9
Crow Wing	16625	2067	12.4	Red Lake	2116	365	17.2
Dakota	11248	895	5.2	Redwood	10253	662	6.5
Dodge	7692	289	12.1	Renville	11016	935	8.5
Douglas	8837	1514	8.7	Rice	13861	2096	8.8
Fartherly	28166	2018	7.2	Rock	5585	277	5.0
Fillingim	12599	7320	18.5	Roseau	5650	730	13.0
Fredrick	12543	1079	9.3	St. Louis (Inc. Duluth)	85683	18768	22.1
Guthrie	7877	1740	7.1	Scott	35797	1871	5.2
Grant	1813	310	9.7	Sherburne	14150	1002	7.1
Hennepin	840604	8710	4.6	Sibley	8079	787	9.6
Houston	9009	763	7.1	Stearns	12093	447	3.8
Hubbard	1423	889	16.2	Steele	9579	1230	12.7
Isanti	10349	927	8.9	Stevens	4761	409	8.6
Itasca	17175	2204	12.8	Swift	8071	881	9.2
Jackson	7703	447	5.8	Todd	11174	1084	9.7
Kanabec	5285	676	12.8	Traverse	2715	241	8.9
Kandiyohi	12960	1544	8.8	Wabasha	9088	847	9.3
Kittson	3340	396	11.9	Wadena	5417	619	11.4
Koochiching	7399	811	11.0	Waseca	8779	668	7.6
Lac qui Parle	5571	375	6.7	Washington	81610	3279	4.0
				Watowin	6681	526	7.9
				Willin	4206	341	8.1
				Winona	22099	2021	9.1
				Wright	35351	3040	8.6
				Yellow Medicine	7379	590	8.0

Technical Notes:

1/ Labor force data is computed according to BLS methodology. The method includes an adjustment to assure that the sum of the substate areas equals the separately estimated State total. This adjustment is Applied to all county and SMSA areas. County and area unemployment was multiplied by an adjustment factor of 1.42, employment was multiplied by 1.03. For a more detailed explanation see the Review of Labor and Economic Conditions, Vol. 4, No. 4, (February 1978 issue), p. 29.

2/ Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, and Wright Counties.

3/ Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties.

Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

Tables 1 and 2 provide data on persons who filed a claim for unemployment compensation in Minnesota during the month. Only those claiming benefits from the regular State program are represented since data on the characteristics of Federal employees and veterans are not available.

The total number of claimants for unemployment benefits fell by 4,180 or 7.4 percent in March. Although the numerical decline this March was not as large as in March 1983, the percentage drop was the steepest since March 1979. A little over half of the March decrease was among claimants in the Construction and Manufacturing industries. The largest March decline in percentage terms was among claimants in the Mining industry. Over-the-year, the total number of claimants dropped by 25,756 or 33 percent. Claimants have now shown over-the-year declines for thirteen straight months. The largest decreases from a year ago were in Manufacturing, Retail Trade and Construction.

Table 1. Distribution of Insured Unemployed, By Age and Sex, March, 1984

Age Groups	Number	Percent Distributions		
		Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTALS	52246	78.0	100.0	100.0
Under 45	39812	79.2	77.3	72.2
Under 25	9904	78.1	18.9	18.9
25-34	19640	81.1	39.1	32.3
35-44	10268	76.5	19.3	23.0
45 and Over	12434	74.4	22.7	27.8
45-54	6940	75.4	12.8	14.9
55 and Over	5494	73.1	9.9	12.9

Job Service Applicant Supply and Demand

Table 3 compares Job Service (J.S.) job applicants with the J.S. job openings that existed at the end of the month. These comparisons are expressed as supply/demand ratios. Other things being equal, the greater the ratio of applicants to openings, the greater the competition has been for work within that occupational category. To put these ratios into context, the reader must remember that not only do job seekers and employers in general find jobs or recruit workers through other means, but those interested in certain kinds of jobs are particularly unlikely to use the J.S. For example, workers seeking professional and Managerial jobs are least likely to use the J.S., whereas employers usually recruit construction workers through union halls and hire teachers directly. Thus, the main value of Table 3 is that it reflects, for broad occupational groups, the relative labor market conditions that those using the J.S. encountered when seeking work.

Table 2. Distribution of Insured Unemployed By Industry and Occupation, March, 1984

Industry and Occupational Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent Long-Term Unemployed ^{1/}	Women as Percent of Total
Total, All Industries	52246	100.0	24.3	22.1
Ag., For., Fish.	1620	3.1	38.5	9.6
Mining	1101	2.3	36.5	4.9
Construction	18326	35.2	23.6	2.4
Manufacturing	11613	22.2	20.1	30.9
Pub. Utilities	2301	4.4	20.5	12.0
Wholesale Trade	2793	5.3	28.1	22.0
Retail Trade	5240	10.0	25.9	40.0
Fin., Ins., Real Est.	979	1.9	32.4	50.1
Services	6431	12.3	25.7	52.7
Public Admin.	1052	2.0	31.6	26.4
Inf. Not Available	660	1.3	2.0	25.0
Total, All Occupations	52246	100.0	24.3	22.1
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	4525	8.7	27.5	39.9
Clerical	3824	7.3	27.8	79.8
Sales	1465	2.8	27.6	34.3
Services	3209	6.1	27.7	55.1
Farm., For., Fish.	1407	2.7	43.2	10.0
Processing	2817	5.4	13.5	38.9
Machine Trades	2391	4.6	23.2	11.8
Benchwork	3189	6.1	22.4	63.8
Structural Work	19396	37.1	22.7	1.4
Misc.	9597	18.4	24.5	8.8
Inf. Not Available	476	0.9	22.7	29.5

^{1/} Long-Term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

Table 3. Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand ^{1/}

Occupation	Applicants (Supply) March 1984	Job Openings (Demand) March 1984	Supply/Demand Ratio	
			March 1984	March 1983
Total	107747	12287	8.8	11.8
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	13071	1467	8.9	11.2
Clerical	17209	2496	6.9	8.2
Sales	4891	1500	3.3	4.9
Dom. Services	1431	140	10.2	3.1
Other Services	16673	2413	6.9	9.1
Farm., Fish., For.	2558	145	17.6	5.8
Processing	2587	456	5.7	8.4
Machine Trades	7418	693	10.7	32.0
Benchwork	6604	586	11.3	32.2
Structural Work	16336	684	23.9	23.5
Mtr. Frght., Trans.	5212	354	14.7	24.8
Pkg. & Mat. Hndlg.	12376	1296	9.5	16.0
Other	1387	157	24.3	28.1

^{1/} Inexperienced and improperly coded job applicants are not included in this table.

NOTE

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CURRENT MINNESOTA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

June 1984 Supplement to The Review of Labor and Economic Conditions

Prepared by the Research and Statistical Services Office, MN Dept. of Economic Security, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul MN 55101, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Employment and Training Admin.

Nation

Although most of the economic statistics for May suggested that economic activity was slowing down, the data for April indicated that the economy was bouncing back to renewed robust growth. It may be a few months before a more positive determination can be made of growth behavior.

Labor market developments in May were somewhat mixed as total employment surged, while the growth of nonfarm payroll employment slowed. The surge in total employment caused the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to drop to 7.5 percent in May after holding at 7.8 percent for three consecutive months. Although total employment (seasonally adjusted) rose by a huge 886,000 in May, the gain may have been overstated because of problems in the seasonal adjustment process. Meanwhile, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment climbed a moderate 232,000 in May following increases averaging 355,000 in each of the three previous months. The largest over-the-month gains were in services (\$9,000), construction (\$9,000), and trade (\$5,000). Employment in manufacturing rose by only 26,000 in May after considerably larger increases in earlier months.

Other economic reports for May also indicated that economic growth was decelerating. Retail sales rose only 0.2 percent in May after a jump of 3.1 in April, while industrial production climbed a modest 0.4 percent in May following a gain of 1.1 percent in April. Perhaps the best evidence of slower growth was a drop of 10.5 percent in housing starts in May.

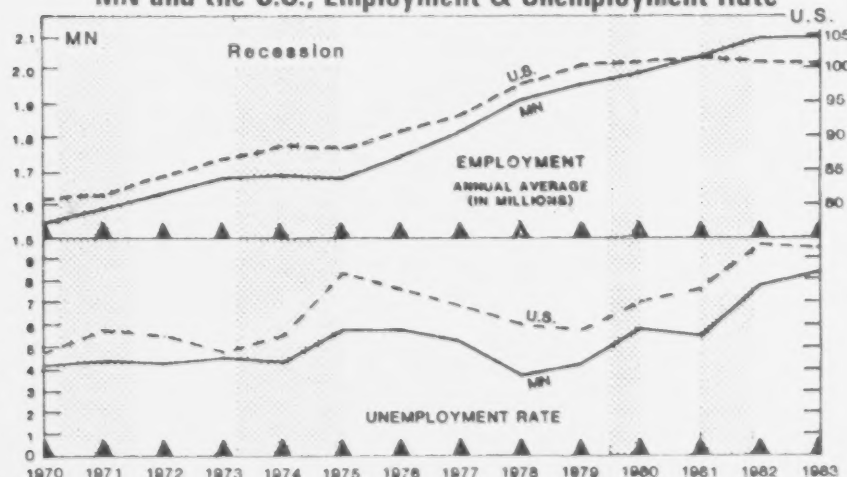
State

Recently available seasonally adjusted labor force data show that the Minnesota employment situation continued to improve in May, but not as sharply as in earlier months. However, seasonally adjusted establishment data indicate that nonfarm wage and salary employment is still increasing at a healthy rate.

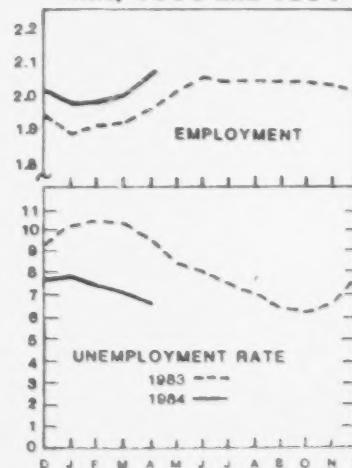
The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down to 6.0 percent in May from 6.1 percent in March and April. The unadjusted rates in May, April and March were 5.8, 6.6, and 7.1 percent, respectively. Seasonally adjusted total employment rose 5,100 in May after gains of 11,800 in April and 7,500 in March. The unadjusted employment gains in May and April were 48,900 and 63,600. Nonfarm payroll employment, also seasonally adjusted, rose 11,200 in May after increases of 15,600 in April and 10,100 in March. Adjusted payroll employment has risen by 56,700 since the beginning of the year and by 121,900 since the recovery began. The largest gains during the recovery have been in manufacturing, trade, and services with each contributing about one-fourth of the total increase. Although payroll employment was 12,700 above the pre-recession all-time high of December, 1979, the only industry sectors to show increases since December, 1979 were Trade, Finance-Insurance-Real Estate and Services.

Labor Force Estimates	MINNESOTA (Numbers in '000's)			UNITED STATES (Numbers in '000,000's)		
	May 1984	Change		May 1984	Change	
		Last Mo.	From Year Ago		Last Mo.	From Year Ago
Civilian Labor Force	2256.6	34.6	60.4	113.3	1.1	3.0
Employed	2125.0	48.9	111.8	105.1	1.5	5.6
Unemployed	131.6	-14.3	-51.4	8.2	-0.4	-2.6
Unemployment Rate						
Actual	5.8	-0.8	-2.5	7.2	-0.4	-2.6
Seasonally Adjusted	6.0	-0.1	-2.6	7.5	-0.3	-2.6

MN and the U.S., Employment & Unemployment Rate



MN, 1983 and 1984



Minnesota Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment, Hours, and Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT ^{1/} (thousands)			PER CENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	May 1984	April 1984	May 1983	April 1984	May 1983	May 1984	April 1984	May 1984	April 1984	May 1984	April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL	1814.4	1779.3	1719.6	2.0	5.5						
MANUFACTURING	363.4	357.7	341.0	1.6	6.6	388.49	394.28	9.64	9.64	40.3	40.9
Durable Goods	220.4	216.4	202.9	1.8	8.6	402.11	408.53	9.76	9.75	41.2	41.9
Furniture, Lumber and Wood	16.2	15.4	14.7	4.6	10.1	398.16	428.24	10.08	10.10	39.5	42.4
Stone, Clay and Glass	9.3	8.7	8.9	6.0	4.3	379.50	374.50	10.12	9.96	37.5	37.6
Primary Metals	6.0	6.0	5.4	1.2	12.4	379.14	393.64	8.90	9.07	42.6	43.4
Fabricated Metals	34.0	32.9	32.1	3.3	5.9	448.03	451.26	10.77	10.77	41.6	41.9
Nonelectrical Machinery	86.4	86.1	78.5	0.3	10.0	427.23	427.98	10.10	10.07	42.3	42.5
Electrical Machinery	28.4	27.8	25.5	2.2	11.5	326.83	333.74	8.13	8.14	40.2	41.0
Transportation Equipment	7.4	7.2	6.1	2.4	20.8	461.38	478.30	10.78	10.92	42.8	43.8
Other Durable Goods ^{2/}	32.8	32.3	31.7	1.5	3.4	372.60	375.42	9.00	8.96	41.4	41.9
Nondurable Goods	143.0	141.3	138.1	1.2	3.6	370.67	375.80	9.48	9.49	39.1	39.6
Food and Kindred	43.7	42.6	43.7	2.6	0	324.42	338.91	8.56	8.58	37.9	39.5
Textile and Apparel	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.2	6.4	247.11	253.36	6.32	6.53	39.1	38.8
Paper and Allied	33.0	32.9	32.3	0.2	2.2	474.47	477.60	11.06	11.03	42.9	43.3
Printing and Publishing	39.2	38.8	36.0	1.0	8.8	362.11	360.14	9.84	9.84	36.8	36.6
Chemical and Petroleum	9.4	9.4	9.5	0	-0.9	461.16	439.70	10.98	10.83	42.0	40.6
Rubber and Leather	12.6	12.6	11.8	0	6.8	315.93	315.09	8.08	8.10	39.1	38.9
NONMANUFACTURING	1451.0	1421.6	1378.7	2.1	5.2						
Mining and Quarrying	10.7	10.2	9.5	4.7	13.0	514.65	503.37	13.23	12.94	38.9	38.9
Metal Mining	8.6	8.4	7.5	1.5	14.8	539.00	525.86	14.11	13.73	38.2	38.3
Construction	69.2	59.3	59.6	16.6	16.2	570.40	556.09	15.13	15.49	37.7	35.9
Building	18.6	17.3	16.5	7.8	13.1	526.02	510.11	13.99	14.41	37.6	35.4
Highway and Heavy	12.4	7.8	10.7	57.6	15.4	502.52	458.02	12.69	12.48	39.6	36.7
Special Trades	38.2	34.2	32.4	11.6	18.0	616.40	602.04	16.57	16.77	37.2	35.9
Transportation	62.3	61.2	59.9	1.8	4.0						
Railroads	10.2	10.0	11.1	2.0	-7.4	540.50	540.50	11.75	11.75	46.0	46.0
Trucking and Warehousing	24.4	23.9	23.4	2.2	4.3	433.64	423.54	11.72	11.70	37.0	36.2
Public Utilities	34.4	34.2	33.9	0.7	1.4	511.03	511.73	12.84	12.89	39.8	39.7
Communications	20.1	19.9	20.0	1.0	0.5	468.03	469.22	11.97	11.97	39.1	39.2
Elec., Gas and Sanitary	14.3	14.3	14.0	0.3	2.7	563.29	562.19	13.84	13.95	40.7	40.3
Trade	452.7	442.2	428.5	2.4	5.6	225.45	227.10	7.49	7.52	30.1	30.2
Retail	339.1	329.8	319.4	2.8	6.2	180.14	181.63	6.48	6.51	27.8	27.9
General Merchandise	47.3	46.1	43.8	2.6	8.1	160.16	163.85	5.91	5.98	27.1	27.4
Food Stores	45.6	44.6	44.9	2.1	1.5	216.41	218.22	7.62	7.63	28.4	28.6
Automotive	35.7	35.1	33.9	1.7	5.3	314.91	308.90	8.42	8.44	37.4	36.6
Eating and Drinking	116.2	111.4	107.8	4.3	7.8	106.24	107.39	4.68	4.71	22.7	22.8
Wholesale	113.6	112.4	109.1	1.0	4.1	392.56	389.38	10.17	10.14	38.6	38.4
F.I.R.E.	105.3	104.4	100.6	0.8	4.7						
Finance	49.1	48.9	47.7	0.3	3.0						
Insurance	37.5	37.4	35.6	0.4	5.3						
Real Estate	18.7	18.1	17.3	3.1	8.2						
Service Industries	414.7	409.5	391.8	1.3	5.8						
Hotel and Lodging	23.4	21.8	20.9	7.3	12.0						
Business Services	67.5	66.7	60.6	1.2	11.4						
Health Services	135.3	135.5	132.6	-0.1	2.1						
Private Education	24.7	25.0	24.1	-1.2	2.5						
Soc. Serv., Museums etc.	88.5	88.1	83.4	0.5	6.1						
Government	301.8	300.7	295.0	0.4	2.3						
Federal	31.1	31.0	30.6	0.6	1.8						
State	76.3	75.9	74.2	0.5	2.8						
Local	194.4	193.9	190.3	0.3	2.2						

^{1/} Totals may not add because of rounding.

^{2/} Includes Scientific Instruments and Miscellaneous Industries.

Labor Force Data: State, SMSAs, and Counties

Area or County	May, 1984 Prelim.			Area or County	May, 1984 Prelim.		
	Labor ^{1/} Force	Unemp.	Un. Rate		Labor ^{1/} Force	Unemp.	Un. Rate
State of Minnesota	2256588	131566	5.8	Lake	4387	675	15.4
Metropolitan Areas				Lake of the Woods	2059	185	9.0
Duluth/Superior (Duluth City Only)	36644	3469	9.5	Le Sueur	12006	1053	8.8
Fargo/Moorhead (Clay County, MN Only)	28740	1622	5.6	Lincoln	4261	258	6.1
Minneapolis/St. Paul SMSA ^{2/}	1229006	55016	4.5	Lyon	16261	863	5.3
Rochester SMSA ^{3/} (Olmsted Co.)	60071	2551	4.2	McLeod	17103	994	5.8
St. Cloud SMSA ^{3/}	81758	5496	6.7	Mahnomen	3139	332	10.6
Counties				Marshall	6849	883	12.9
Aitkin	5636	914	16.2	Martin	14398	815	5.7
Anoka	116858	5719	4.9	Meeker	11189	1164	10.4
Becker	13079	1517	11.6	Mille Lacs	9080	724	8.0
Beltrami	17030	1385	8.1	Morrison	13625	1204	8.8
Benton	12562	816	6.5	Mower	19040	1553	8.2
Big Stone	4272	279	6.5	Murray	6558	435	6.6
Blue Earth	29639	1339	4.5	Nicollet	15241	674	4.4
Brown	15581	904	5.8	Nobles	12786	732	5.7
Carlton	12214	1394	11.4	Norman	4937	310	6.3
Carver	21946	939	4.3	Olmsted	60071	2551	4.2
Cass	11219	1016	9.1	Otter Tail	26134	2241	8.6
Chippewa	7939	454	5.7	Pennington	6444	557	8.6
Chisago	15472	889	5.7	Pine	10262	1040	10.1
Clay	28740	1622	5.6	Pipestone	5996	265	4.4
Clearwater	4410	762	17.3	Polk	18297	1667	9.1
Cook	2493	275	11.0	Pope	5884	366	6.2
Cottonwood	7833	409	5.2	Ramsey	273496	12780	4.7
Crow Wing	18022	1567	8.7	Red Lake	2393	336	14.0
Dakota	114760	4691	4.1	Redwood	11204	559	5.0
Dodge	8681	661	7.6	Renville	12241	985	8.0
Douglas	14321	891	6.2	Rice	24807	1706	6.9
Faribault	11154	637	5.7	Rock	6198	190	3.1
Fillmore	12956	815	6.3	Roseau	6341	597	9.4
Freeborn	18885	1642	8.7	St. Louis (Inc. Duluth)	88866	9432	10.6
Goodhue	20907	1138	5.7	Scott	25941	1114	4.3
Grant	3717	205	5.5	Sherburne	14951	980	6.6
Hennepin	558230	24413	4.4	Sibley	8889	602	6.8
Houston	10747	566	5.3	Stearns	54245	3700	6.8
Hubbard	5966	653	10.9	Steele	17155	986	5.7
Isanti	10857	725	6.7	Stevens	6237	281	4.5
Itasca	17465	2036	11.7	Swift	6817	627	9.2
Jackson	8329	372	4.5	Todd	12206	898	7.4
Kanabec	5730	557	9.7	Traverse	3057	156	5.1
Kandiyohi	19412	1188	6.1	Wabasha	10271	790	7.7
Kittson	3601	320	8.9	Wadena	5719	452	7.9
Koochiching	7856	829	10.6	Waseca	9435	462	4.9
Lac qui Parle	6183	332	5.4	Washington	67066	2667	4.0
				Watsonwan	7072	482	6.8
				Wilkin	4565	272	6.0
				Winona	23237	1800	7.7
				Wright	35237	1804	5.1
				Yellow Medicine	8233	446	5.4

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2/ Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, and Wright Counties.

3/ Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties.

Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

Tables 1 and 2 provide data on persons who filed a claim for unemployment compensation in Minnesota during the month. Only those claiming benefits from the regular State program are represented since data on the characteristics of Federal employees and veterans are not available.

Claimants for unemployment benefits fell by 12,553 or 29.7 percent in May to a comparatively low level of 29,772. The more current May figure was not far above the levels of the corresponding months in 1978 and 1979 when the economy was quite strong. However, a sizeable part of the improvement over the past year may have been the result of workers exhausting their benefits. Over half of the May decline was among claimants in the construction industry. There were also substantial decreases among claimants in manufacturing and retail trade. Over-the-year, the total number of claimants fell by 14,857 or 33.3 percent. The largest declines from a year ago were in manufacturing (5,052), retail trade (2,281) and construction (2,063). The very strong percentage drop in mining claimants was primarily due to the exhaustion of benefits.

Table 1. Distribution of Insured Unemployed, By Age and Sex, May, 1984

Age Groups	Number	Percent Distributions		
		Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTALS	29772	65.2	100.0	100.0
Under 45	22334	67.5	76.5	72.1
Under 25	5027	66.1	16.9	16.9
25-34	11047	69.5	39.0	33.4
35-44	6260	65.0	20.6	21.8
45 and Over	7438	62.2	23.5	27.9
45-54	4084	62.0	12.9	15.4
55 and Over	3354	62.4	10.6	12.5

Table 2. Distribution of Insured Unemployed By Industry and Occupation, May, 1984

Industry and Occupational Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent Long-Term ^{1/} Unemployed	Women as Percent of Total
Total, All Industries	29772	100.0	26.3	34.3
Ag., For., Fish.	351	1.2	41.5	23.9
Mining	271	0.9	56.0	9.6
Construction	5930	19.9	30.3	4.1
Manufacturing	8718	29.3	22.5	36.6
Pub. Utilities	1441	4.8	24.3	19.5
Wholesale Trade	1968	6.6	27.0	29.5
Retail Trade	3734	12.6	32.0	44.4
Fin., Ins., Real Est.	872	2.9	28.9	56.6
Services	5540	18.6	23.3	58.0
Public Admin.	526	1.8	23.7	42.4
Inf. Not Available	421	1.4	4.8	31.7
Total, All Occupations	29772	100.0	26.3	34.3
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	4097	13.8	27.4	43.7
Clerical	3532	11.9	26.6	82.0
Sales	1287	4.3	30.8	35.1
Services	2382	8.0	25.9	56.9
Farm., For., Fish.	339	1.1	29.4	10.8
Processing	1854	6.2	20.8	43.3
Machine Trades	1808	6.1	22.5	15.4
Benchwork	2582	8.7	25.8	58.5
Structural Work	6950	23.3	28.2	2.5
Misc.	4624	15.5	25.0	16.0
Inf. Not Available	317	1.1	32.3	41.9

^{1/} Long-Term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

Job Service Applicant Supply and Demand

Table 3 compares Job Service (J.S.) job applicants with the J.S. job openings that existed at the end of the month. These comparisons are expressed as supply/demand ratios. Other things being equal, the greater the ratio of applicants to openings, the greater the competition has been for work within that occupational category. To put these ratios into context, the reader must remember that not only do job seekers and employers in general find jobs or recruit workers through other means, but those interested in certain kinds of jobs are particularly unlikely to use the J.S. For example, workers seeking professional and Managerial jobs are least likely to use the J.S., whereas employers usually recruit construction workers through union halls and hire teachers directly. Thus, the main value of Table 3 is that it reflects, for broad occupational groups, the relative labor market conditions that those using the J.S. encountered when seeking work.

Table 3. Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand^{1/}

Occupation	Applicants (Supply) May, 1984	Job Openings (Demand) May, 1984	Supply/Demand Ratio	
			May, 1984	May, 1983
Total	109897	13620	8.1	19.5
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	13119	1598	8.2	25.4
Clerical	18082	2373	7.6	15.5
Sales	4848	1829	2.7	5.8
Dom. Services	1725	176	9.8	14.3
Other Services	16276	3075	5.3	14.5
Farm., Fish., For.	3498	210	16.7	47.9
Processing	2532	572	4.4	7.9
Machine Trades	7025	816	8.6	58.5
Benchwork	7063	915	7.7	39.2
Structural Work	16063	865	18.6	59.6
Mtr. Frght., Trans.	4906	431	11.4	41.3
Pkg. & Mat. Hndlg.	13270	723	18.4	16.5
Other	1490	37	40.3	46.1

^{1/} Inexperienced and improperly coded job applicants are not included in this table.

REVIEW OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL SERVICES OFFICE

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All signed articles appearing in this publication together with the Editorial Comment represent the views of the author or editor and not necessarily those of the Department. Questions or comments to the authors may be directed to the Research and Statistical Services Office of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, 390 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101 or (612) 296-6545.

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Editorial Comment

A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES

By R. Pinola

As producers and purveyors of labor market information, we are continually faced with the challenge of providing data to address new and evolving problems. Although we produce and disseminate a vast array of labor market information, new demands place a premium on one's ingenuity in meeting these demands. Not infrequently, we are able to provide reasoned, albeit imperfect, substitutes for the required information by using proxy data from various statistical programs. However, in many cases, no amount of tinkering with different data bases can produce satisfactory results, thus creating frustration on the part of both the producer and consumer of labor market information. This frustration has understandably led to visions of a comprehensive labor market information system that can meet the myriad needs of different user groups.

While much has been said and written about the development of a comprehensive labor market information system, it not only remains an elusive concept but suffers from mistaken notions of what form such a system should take. Too often, it is viewed as comprising an endless "laundry-list" of data stacked in computer files to meet every conceivable user need instead of a system based on a sound theoretical and conceptual foundation and predicated on high standards of statistical reliability. Without an overriding rational structure, our information base has become a hodge-podge of fragmented data systems that have grown, like Topsy, in response to the exigencies, real and fancied, of the times. Despite their serious limitation, they are frequently employed to make inadequate evaluations of labor market problems and to support policies for which they were not designed. Thus, crude and simple nose counts are often used as substitutes for analysis in researching complex labor market phenomena and formulating socio-economic policy because a data base for more rational study does not exist. The problem is not only with the producers who have failed to design and build a conceptually sound and reliable data system, but with users who prostitute the data by using it for unintended purposes. The problem is further compounded when users are not able to specify the type of data that is most relevant for planning and evaluating program effort.

The seriousness of the data problem also stems from the fact that the various data systems often lack a unifying linkage. Because of the absence of such unifying linkages, even experienced and knowledgeable users of labor market information soon become frustrated. A case in point will make this clear. Currently in use to classify occupational employment and unemployment are four classification systems; namely, 1) the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT), 2) the Census Classification of Occupations, 3) the Standard Occupational Classification system, and 4) the Office of Education Classification system. ^{1/} In addition, we have some hybrids of these systems that are used for collecting information on occupational employment. ^{2/} As can be appreciated, anyone

^{1/} There is also the International Occupational Classification system that is used infrequently in the United States but extensively employed abroad.

^{2/} For example, that which is used to collect occupational staffing patterns by industry under the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program. It should be noted that this is being corrected to some degree by the recent adoption of the Standard Occupational Classification System.

attempting to develop reliable occupational demand and supply estimates, even using crude nose counts, becomes quickly frustrated trying to reconcile different data sources. Moreover, often heralded cross-walks that are meant to address the problem provide unsatisfactory linkages between data sets despite much time and effort expended to bring about a reconciliation of different data sources.

Lest readers think that the above-referenced situation is unique, we hasten to add that the problems are pervasive. Consider the matter of the "Dislocated Worker" as defined under the Job Training Partnership Act of 1982 and for which no satisfactory measure of incidence has yet been developed. In fact, because of the confusion that prevails, counts of dislocated workers range anywhere from 50,000 to 2,000,000. Another instance of definitional and measurement problems exists with respect to "High Tech" occupations. There is as yet no acceptable method by which one can make a determination of a "High Tech" occupation without introducing some very heroic and restrictive assumptions; something akin to proving that the moon is made out of blue cheese if one is given sufficient limiting assumptions. Yet we are asked to provide reliable estimates of dislocated workers and "High Tech" occupational employment in the absence of any definitive and feasible criteria which would permit uniform standards of measurement. Instead, we are forced to develop our own, but this may not be in accord with what Wisconsin, or Pennsylvania, or California has adopted, hence leading to more confusion. In the end, comparability is impossible and different data is used to make program evaluations without regard to the consistency of definitions in our conceptual base.

As we noted earlier, our data systems have developed in many cases to meet the exigencies of the times, which tends to give them an emotional coloring and creates problems of rational design because they must be quickly put into place. In the process, we tend to overlook some of the important objectives and criteria that should be considered in determining what data is essential and what is not, and how it can be used for decision making. For starters, it may be important to know how participants in the labor market are faring at different times and places, but it is equally, if not more, important to know why they are faring as they do. In this context, understanding the way in which the labor market functions and allocates resources should be an important consideration in determining the type of data that is needed. Otherwise analyses are likely to be superficial exercises that may lead to misdirected programs and market interventions.

In summary, we are suggesting that more attention should be given to examining the logical structure and linkages in our existing data systems before piling on an endless variety of new data that is of doubtful value for analyzing economic and labor market problems. For lack of a better word, we call it rationalization of data systems. Under this rubric, we would also call for the elimination of much duplication that now exists and is a consternation to many users who wonder which source to believe. Admittedly, developing a more rational labor market information system will involve more funds than simply piling data upon data, much of which rests unused in massive computer files or computer printouts collecting dust in untended and musky closets. In the end, however, funds used for rationalizing the system will most certainly prove cost effective. As Ms. Courtenay Slater, former Chief Economist in the U.S. Department of Commerce, noted at the National Governors' Association statistical conference in March 1983, the budget costs for statistical programs are not the problem, but rather a symptom of a larger problem which is the lack of a systematic approach to the collection, analysis, and development of data.

Research Summaries

A COMPARISON OF REGIONAL TRENDS IN EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN MINNESOTA, 1978-1984

By B. Steuerragel

The purpose of this research summary is to compare the industrial structure of various regions of the State of Minnesota and show how fluctuations in the national economy over the past five years have affected each of the regions in terms of employment and unemployment. For this article, the State was divided into eight regions. In order to measure trends in regional employment over the course of both a recessionary and recovery period, wage and salary employment data for firms covered by the Minnesota Employment Services Law was compared for the period from December 1978 to December 1983, the latest month for which the data was available. Unemployment rates for the regions were calculated for three time periods, June 1979, a prerecession period, June 1982, a period near the trough of the recession, and June 1984, the latest month for which data are available and one in which national economic expansion is taking place.

Table 1 shows the percent distribution of total employment by industry category for the State and eight subregions. This distribution is based on 1980 Census estimates of total employment (wage and salary, self-employed, unpaid family workers) by place of residence.

Table 1

1980 Census Distribution of Regional Employment
by Industry Category

Industry	Total State	Northwest	North Central	Northeast	Central	Southwest	South Central	Southeast	Met
Total, All Industries	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	5.8	14.0	14.0	1.9	11.0	22.5	13.1	10.3	0.9
Mining	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	20.2	10.0	11.2	14.2	23.6	12.6	22.0	21.4	22.9
Nondurable	7.0	3.8	5.0	1.3	6.7	6.2	10.7	8.4	7.0
Durable	13.2	6.2	6.2	1.0	16.8	6.5	11.4	13.0	16.0
Construction	8.3	5.1	6.2	6.0	8.6	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.7
Transportation, Communication, Public Utilities	6.0	—	6.8	7.9	8.1	5.2	4.8	5.0	7.5
Trade	21.4	12.3	11.9	21.3	21.3	21.7	22.1	19.8	22.5
Finance, Insurance	6.0	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.3	7.5
Real Estate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Services	29.7	26.8	17.0	10.7	29.1	25.4	26.5	21.8	29.9
Public Administration	4.0	2.9	4.1	5.4	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.6	3.9

1: Include public health and education services.

Source: 1980 Census of Population, Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce

Table 1 gives insight into the uniqueness of the substate regions. The northwest and southwest regions are the most agricultural oriented in terms of employment. Nearly 10 percent of the northeast region's workers were employed in the mining industry in 1980. The Met, south central, and central regions are manufacturing oriented although residents in the south central region are more likely to work in nondurable goods manufacturing industries, such as food processing while manufacturing in the Met and central regions is more durable goods oriented. Interestingly, the most service-oriented economy in the State is not the Met area but the north central region.

Table 2

Changes in Covered Employment by Type of Industry
and Unemployment Rates, by Minnesota Regions

Region	Goods1/ Producing	Service2/ Producing	Total	Unemployment Rate (Percent)			Percentage Point Change in Unemployment Rate		
				June 1979	June 1982	June 1984	June 1979- June 1982	June 1982- June 1984	June 1979- June 1984
Northwest	-46.3	-7.3	-16.7	6.0	9.4	9.7	3.4	0.3	3.7
North Central	-16.5	2.0	-1.4	5.5	9.0	8.3	3.5	-0.7	2.8
Northeast	-48.7	-5.6	-19.7	5.8	15.3	10.8	9.5	-4.5	5.0
Central	5.9	12.0	7.0	4.3	8.3	6.7	4.0	-1.6	2.4
Southwest	-15.0	-0.8	-3.0	3.4	6.3	6.1	2.9	-0.2	2.7
South Central	-11.3	3.1	-1.7	3.4	6.9	5.9	3.5	-1.0	2.5
Southeast	-11.6	5.5	-0.2	4.1	7.0	6.3	2.9	-0.7	2.2
Met	-1.6	8.1	5.4	3.5	6.5	5.1	3.0	-1.4	1.6
Minnesota	-9.2	5.7	1.6	4.0	7.6	6.2	3.6	-1.4	2.2

1/ Mining, construction, manufacturing.

2/ Ag., forest., fish., transportation, trade, finance, services, government.

Table 2 shows the impact of the 1980 and 1982 recessions on employment and the unemployment rate in Minnesota's subareas. All areas of the State experienced higher unemployment rates in 1984 than in 1979 in spite of the fact that some areas have seen 1984 employment levels recover and surpass 1978 levels. The areas of the State most adversely affected by the recessions were the northeast, northwest, north central, southwest, and south central. Those areas are similar in that they are either heavily dependent on a single industry which was severely affected by the recession or they have a significant agriculture component in their economic base. Both northeastern and northwestern Minnesota have had net losses in employment and significant net increases in the unemployment rate. In the case of northeastern Minnesota, of course, the iron mining industry experienced severe cutbacks in employment due to slack demand for domestic steel. In the northwestern part of the State, both of the conditions were the case as the area is heavily agricultural and the two major manufacturing industries, wood products and recreational transportation equipment, were hard hit by the recession and unfavorable winter weather which affected consumer demand. In the case of the southwest, south central, and north central regions, there was a net loss of employment, but the magnitude of the change in the unemployment rate was not as significant as in either northeastern or northwestern Minnesota. Part of the reason why the unemployment rates have risen more slowly in the southwestern and south central regions despite their sluggish economy is that their population growth has been slower than in other regions and, consequently, the labor force has grown at the slowest rate of any region in the state between 1979 and 1984. Over the five-year period, the labor force in southwestern and south central Minnesota grew by 4.4 percent and 4.0 percent respectively, compared to a 9.9 percent rate of growth for the State in general.

In contrast to the other regions, employment had recovered from the recession and was expanding in the Met, central, and southeastern regions of the State at the end of 1983. All three of these regions have a strong service sector which weathered the recession and a durable goods manufacturing sector which recovered rapidly following the recession. The central and Metropolitan regions have had the fastest labor force growth in the State over the past five years, 11.4 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively. In spite of this rapid growth in working age population, the unemployment rates have risen slower than in the other regions because of the job-creating strength of the economies in these regions.